This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A program for an organization of ideas using an electronic computer, the electronic computer having a user input device and a graphics display, the program comprising instructions executed on the electronic computer to:

(i) accept text identified ideas from a user via the user-input device;

(ii) accept at least one hierarchy instructions from the user via the user-input device, the hierarchy instructions relating the accepted text identified ideas in hierarchical dependencies;

(iii) hierarchically display representations of the text identified ideas on the graphic display as organized into levels defined by common ~~dependency:~~ hierarchical dependency;

(iv) accept from the user numeric priorities for the text identified ideas of at least one level; and

(v) hierarchically arrange the text identified ideas ~~of the at~~ of at least one level on the graphic display according to the numeric priorities.

2. (currently amended) The program of claim 1 wherein the hierarchically displayed representation of the text identified ideas are text displayed in a text outline according to the hierarchical dependencies of ideas associated with the text, the text outline including paragraphs arranged beneath other paragraphs on which they depend; and

wherein the paragraphs of a level are ordered according to the numeric priorities of the text identified ideas to which they are related.

3. (currently amended) The program of claim 1 wherein the hierarchically displayed representations of the text identified ideas are node symbols arranged in a tree according to their hierarchical dependencies, the tree including branches visually connecting node symbols to other node symbols on which they depend; and

wherein the node symbols of a level are ordered according to the numeric priorities of the text identified ideas to which they are related.

4. (previously presented) The program as recited in claim 1 wherein the computer further executes the stored program to provide a list of representations of identified ideas of a level and wherein priorities are assigned by the user by changing the order of the representations of identified ideas within the list of representations of text identified ideas.

5. (previously presented) The program as recited in claim 4 wherein the computer further executes the stored program to allow changing of order of representations of identified ideas by selection of a given representation of an identified idea as displayed on the graphics display using the user input device and moving the representations of the identified idea within the list of representations of text identified ideas as displayed on the graphic display device using the user input device.

6. (previously presented) The program as recited in claim 5 wherein the computer further executes the stored program so that when the representation of a text identified idea is moved within the list of representations of text identified ideas to modify the numeric priority of at least one idea text identified idea so that the numeric priorities of all identified ideas in the list of representations of text identified ideas remain monotonically decreasing.

7. (previously presented) The program as recited in claim 1 wherein the computer further executes the stored program to provide a list of representations of text identified ideas of a common hierarchical level and to display a slide control for each text identified idea in the list of representations of text identified ideas that may be manipulated by the user input device to enter the numeric priorities.

8. (currently amended) The program as recited in claim 7 wherein the computer further executes the stored program to decrease the numeric priority of all specific identified ideas in the list of representations of text identified ideas to beneath a given text identified idea to a value ~~less than~~ less than a value of the numeric priority of the given text identified idea.

9. (previously presented) The program as recited in claim 7 wherein the computer further executes the stored program to increase the value of the numeric priority value of all specific text identified ideas in the list of representations of text identified ideas above a given

text identified idea to a value at least equal to a value of the numeric priority of the specific text identified idea.

10. (currently amended) A program for the organization of ideas using an electronic computer, the electronic computer having a user input device and a graphics display, the program comprising instructions executed on the electronic computer to:

(i) accept text identified ideas from the user via the user-input device;

(ii) accept at least one idea hierarchy instructions from the user via the user input device, the hierarchy instructions relating the accepted ideas into predefined categories according to hierarchical dependencies;

(iii) hierarchically display representations of the text identified ideas on the graphic display as organized into levels defined by common hierarchical dependency; and

(iv) after acceptance of a given text identified idea from the user in at least one predefined level, prompt the user as to possible additional text identified ideas for inclusion in a next level having ideas dependent on the idea of the given text identified idea.

11. (original) The program of claim 10 wherein the predefined categories are issue, position and argument and wherein the user is prompted with possible arguments when the given text identified idea is a position and the user is prompted with possible positions when the given text identified idea is an issue.

12. (original) The program as recited in claim 11 wherein the user is prompted with a set of open-ended questions.

13. (previously presented) The program as recited in claim 12 wherein the open-ended questions are augmented by text from the given text.

14. (original) The program as recited in claim 10 wherein the computer further executes the stored program to allow the user to select from a set of predefined generic identified ideas and hierarchies and to provide an editor for editing the predefined generic identified ideas and hierarchies.

15. (currently amended) The program of claim 10 wherein the hierarchically displayed representation of the text identified ideas are text displayed in a text outline

according to <u>hierarchical</u> dependencies of ideas associated with the text identified ideas, the text outline including paragraphs arranged beneath other paragraphs on which they depend; and

wherein the paragraphs of a level are ordered according to the numeric priorities of the text identified ideas to which they are related.

16. (currently amended) The program of claim 10 wherein the <u>hierarchically</u> displayed representations of the text identified ideas are node symbols arranged in a tree according to their dependencies, the tree structure including branches visually connecting node symbols to other node symbols on which they depend; and

wherein the nodes symbols of a level are ordered according to the numeric priorities of the text identified ideas to which they are related.